



# House of Representatives

## File No. 635

General Assembly

February Session, 2012

**(Reprint of File No. 248)**

House Bill No. 5258  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 4, 2012

### **AN ACT PERMITTING THE POSSESSION OF REINDEER YEAR ROUND.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 26-57a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) On or before September 1, 2013, the Commissioner of  
4 Agriculture, in consultation and with the agreement of the Department  
5 of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall adopt regulations, in  
6 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to authorize the  
7 establishment of in-state captive herds of cervids, including, but not  
8 limited to, reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*). Such regulations shall include,  
9 but not be limited to, (1) provisions concerning the issuing of permits  
10 for the importation, exportation and maintenance of captive herds, (2)  
11 standards and procedures to protect native wildlife, (3) provisions for  
12 seasonal interstate transport and possession of reindeer pursuant to  
13 subsection (c) of this section until such time as domestic herds are  
14 sufficiently established to meet demand, and (4) provisions for  
15 inspections and enforcement.

16        (b) Any importation permit issued pursuant to this section shall be  
17        issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture in consultation with the  
18        Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

19        (c) Not later than November 1, 2012, the Commissioner of  
20        Agriculture shall implement a pilot program for the issuance of two  
21        permits that allow not more than two Connecticut businesses to  
22        maintain not more than five reindeer each. Each such reindeer shall be  
23        subject to an importation permit issued by the Commissioner of  
24        Agriculture in consultation with the Department of Energy and  
25        Environmental Protection. Such permits shall be on forms provided by  
26        the Commissioner of Agriculture and shall be contingent on  
27        requirements determined by the Commissioner of Agriculture,  
28        including, but not limited to, the source of such animals, any required  
29        health certification, fencing and containment requirements, periodic  
30        inspections and testing. Such pilot program shall remain in effect until  
31        such time as regulations are adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
32        section.

33        (d) [Any] Until such time as regulations are adopted pursuant to  
34        subsection (a) of this section, any person may import one or more  
35        reindeer into the state during the period commencing on Thanksgiving  
36        Day of each year and ending on the immediately following New Year's  
37        Day, provided (1) any reindeer so imported is subsequently exported  
38        from the state no later than a week following the end of such period,  
39        and (2) such importation complies with the following requirements:  
40        Each reindeer so imported (A) is individually identified by a  
41        permanent metal ear tag, legible tattoo or microchip, (B) possesses a  
42        certified veterinary report of inspection documenting an inspection  
43        that occurred at least one day and not more than thirty days prior to  
44        entry into the state, (C) possesses documentation that verifies such  
45        reindeer (i) comes from a herd that is free of both tuberculosis and  
46        brucellosis, or (ii) tested negative for tuberculosis and brucellosis at  
47        least one day and not more than thirty days prior to entry into the  
48        state, and (D) possesses documentation that the originating herd  
49        participated in a state chronic wasting disease monitoring program (i)

50 not less than the prior three years if from a state or province not  
51 known to have chronic wasting disease, or (ii) not less than the prior  
52 five years if from a state or province known to have chronic wasting  
53 disease outbreaks.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	26-57a

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### ***Explanation***

The bill requires the Department of Agriculture (DAG) to adopt regulations to allow captive herds of cervids. It also requires DAG to implement a pilot program for the issuance of two permits for the possession of up to five cervids each, by up to two in-state businesses under certain circumstances. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

House "A" replaces the underlying file, which permitted the possession of reindeer year round under certain conditions, with the provisions above. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

### ***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5258 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT PERMITTING THE POSSESSION OF REINDEER YEAR ROUND.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the agriculture commissioner, by September 1, 2013, to adopt regulations in consultation and agreement with the energy and environmental protection (DEEP) commissioner, to allow in-state captive herds of cervids (i.e. deer), including reindeer.

The bill requires the agriculture commissioner, by November 1, 2012, to implement a pilot program under which he issues two permits that allow up to two Connecticut businesses to have up to five reindeer each. Each reindeer must have an importation permit issued by the agriculture commissioner in consultation with the DEEP commissioner. The importation permits must be on forms the agriculture commissioner provides and are contingent on requirements he determines, including the source of the reindeer, any required health certification, fencing and containment requirements, periodic inspections, and testing. The pilot program remains in effect until regulations are adopted.

Current law allows anyone to import reindeer into the state between Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day if they are (1) individually identified, (2) certified to be in good health, and (3) exported from the state by January 8. The bill specifies that current law remains in place until regulations are adopted.

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying file, which permitted a person to possess reindeer in the state year round under specified conditions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

**REGULATIONS**

The required regulations must include standards and procedures for protecting native wildlife and provisions for:

1. issuing permits for importing, exporting, and maintaining captive herds;
2. seasonal interstate transport and possession of reindeer pursuant to the pilot program (but the pilot program ends when the regulations are adopted) until domestic herds are sufficiently established to meet demand; and
3. inspections and enforcements.

The bill requires that any importation permit be issued by the agriculture commissioner in consultation with the DEEP commissioner.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 28      Nay 0      (03/21/2012)